

NOTES

STATEWIDE:
In April 2001,
1,242,441
participants were
served by the
WIC Program
throughout
California. There
were an
approximate
950,000
participants
under 5 years
old.

RELATED
INDICATORS:
• Free and
Reduced Lunch
• CalWORKs
• Child Support

Indicator

Participants served by the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

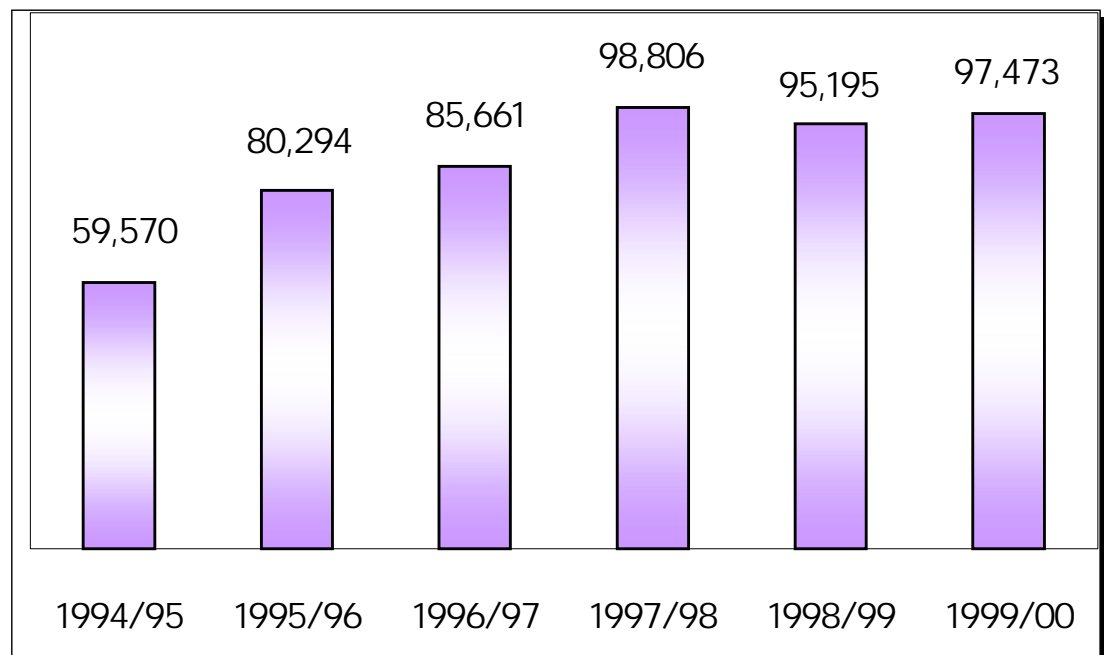
Definition

Number of participants served by WIC and CSFP in Orange County. WIC provides food and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women and young children from birth up to 5 years who are at nutritional risk. CSFP provides nutritious food supplements to women during the perinatal period and to children from birth up to 6 years who are from low-income families and vulnerable to poor nutrition.

Findings

The total number of participants served by Orange County's WIC programs in 1999/2000 was 97,473. That same year, CSFP served 8,980 women and children participants.

Number of Participants Served by the
WIC Program in Orange County



SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Number and Percent of Participants in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

| Participants | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Number of Participants Served | 16,544 | 20,434 (16,338*) | 18,085 (13,260*) | 18,195 (11,868*) | 19,280 (11,128*) | 20,545 (8,980*) |
| Authorized Caseload | 15,000 | 17,500 | 15,837 | 17,743 | 19,800 | 22,082 |
| Percent of Authorized Caseload Served | 110% | 116.5% | 114.2% | 102.5% | 97.4% | 93% |

*Services to pregnant/postpartum women and children only; excludes low-income senior participation, which the CDC began serving through the CSFP in 1996.

Trends

There was a 63.6% increase in the total number of participants served by WIC since 1994/95. In 1994/95, WIC participants numbered 59,570 compared to the 97,473 served in 1999/00. However, despite this dramatic increase, there was only a 2.4% increase in WIC participants served from the previous year (1998/99). From 1998/99 to 1999/00, there was nearly a 24% decrease in the number of CSFP perinatal women and children participants, 11,128 to 8,980.

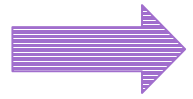
Summary

The WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program's purpose is to prevent health problems and to improve the health of its participants during critical times of growth and development. As a result of WIC's historic inability to serve all those eligible for the program, the Orange County Community Development Council (CDC), a private, non-profit organization, requested and received authorization in 1991 to participate in the federal CSFP. The program serves the same low-income population as WIC and, in addition, serves postpartum women for one year and children to their sixth birthday. CSFP has decreased its service to women and children, and increased its service to seniors since WIC has been better able to meet community needs.

Implications

The WIC program is considered one of the most effective federal human service programs. Studies have found that WIC reduces low-birth weight, infant mortality, anemia and nutritional deficits. Even mild forms of under-nutrition can cause impaired cognitive development, fatigue, trouble concentrating in school, and stunted growth. The General Accounting Office estimates that each \$1.00 spent on WIC food and nutrition counseling for pregnant women averts \$3.50 in medical costs, income support, and special education expenditures for low-birth weight infants.

NOTES



SEE
SUPPLEMENTAL
TABLES FOR
ADDITIONAL
DATA

NATIONWIDE:
In fiscal year 1999,
the National WIC
Program served an
average 7.3 million
participants per
month. About half
of all infants and
almost one-quarter
of all children 1 to
4 years of age in
the U.S.
participated in
WIC.²

DATA
SOURCES:
Orange County
Health Care
Agency/Nutrition
Services - WIC
Program, Orange
County Community
Development
Council, CSFP

NOTES:
¹California
Department of
Health Services -
WIC Branch
²USDA Food and
Nutrition
Assistance
Programs

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Indicator

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), breastfeeding rates and nutrition assessment

Definition

Participants served by the WIC Program and nutritional assessment data from the Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program.

Number of Participants Served by the WIC Program in Orange County

| Participants | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of Participants in WIC* | 59,570 | 80,294 | 85,661 | 98,806 | 95,195 | 98,482 |
| Caseload Allocation** | 64,900 | 90,975 | 90,975 | 95,500 | 97,000 | 103,500 |
| Percent of Caseload served in Orange Co. | 91.8 | 88.3 | 94.2 | 103.5 | 98.1 | 95.2 |

*Participation is based on the number of women, infants and children served during the month of September by the four WIC agencies serving Orange County.

**Caseload is based on the combined caseload allocations for the four WIC agencies serving Orange County.

Sources: County of Orange Health Care Agency/Nutrition Services-WIC Program.

Mission Hospital's Camino Health Center-WIC Program.

Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties-WIC Program.

Public Health Foundation Enterprises-WIC Program.

In Hospital Breastfeeding Choices as Indicated on the Newborn Screening Form in Orange County

| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1998 State Rank 1-Highest rate |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Number of Known Feeding Choices at Discharge | 48,404 | 48,004 | 46,912 | 46,391 | 44,737 | NA |
| Breastfeeding Only Rate | 32% | 33% | 32% | 33% | 32% | 51 out of 58 counties |
| Breastfeeding/formula Rate | 45% | 44% | 46% | 46% | 48% | NA |
| Formula Fed Only Rate | 23% | 23% | 22% | 21% | 20% | NA |

Data prepared by the Epidemiology and Evaluation Section, Maternal and Child Health Branch
California Department of Health Services.

Source Data: Newborn Screening Test Form (DHS) 4409

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

CHDP Program – Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS) Statistics, 1999*

Percent of Records with Abnormal Nutrition Values

| Abnormal Nutrition Values | Orange County | California | United States |
|---|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Underweight (<5 th percentile weight for height) | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Short stature (<5 th percentile height for age) | 6.0 | 6.3 | 7.7 |
| Overweight (>95 th percentile weight for height) | 14.9 | 14.4 | 11.0 |
| Low hemoglobin** (<CDC cut off levels***) | 16.8 | 13.3 | 16.5 |
| Low hematocrit (< CDC cut off levels***) | 12.4 | 11.2 | 15.4 |
| Low hematology (hgb or hct < CDC cut off levels***) | 15.7 | 14.2 | 16.4 |
| Total records accepted in PedNSS | 146,123 | 1,711,913 | 6,884,331 |

Anemia: Percent of Records with Hemoglobin** Levels Below CDC Cut Off*** Criteria

| Area | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999* |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Orange County | 16.6 | 17.2 | 17.7 | 17.9 | 18.6 | 16.8 |
| California | 16.6 | 16.5 | 15.6 | 15.0 | 14.0 | 13.3 |
| United States | 19.8 | 19.8 | 18.5 | 17.7 | 17.0 | 16.5 |

Obesity: Percent of Records with Weight Greater than 95th Percentile on the Pediatric Growth Chart

| Area | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999* |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Orange County | 13.8 | 13.8 | 13.3 | 13.7 | 14.6 | 14.9 |
| California | 13.0 | 13.3 | 13.1 | 13.4 | 14.1 | 14.4 |
| United States | 10.0 | 9.9 | 10.1 | 10.3 | 10.7 | 11.0 |

*Preliminary data.

**Hemoglobin is the main component of red blood cells. It carries oxygen and carbon dioxide throughout the body and accounts for 60-70% of a person's total body iron.

***The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established criteria for determining anemia; these levels vary based on age and gender.

Sources: County of Orange Health Care Agency.

Child Health & Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS).

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Indicator

Non-Assistance Food Stamps

Non-Assistance Food Stamp Recipients in Orange County

| December of: | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Persons Number | 53,010 | 44,094 | 29,075 | 27,999 | 39,953* | 28,939 |
| % Change | NA | -17% | -34% | -4% | 43% | -27.6% |
| | | | | | | |
| Children less than 18 years of age | 15,409 | 13,942 | 11,763 | 11,527 | 16,665* | 13,668 |
| % Change | 3% | -10% | -16% | -2% | -9.60% | -17.98% |
| % of children | 29.07% | 31.62% | 40.46% | 41.17% | 41.71% | 47.23% |

*Two-parent Families State program effective 10/99; reflects coding change for mixed assistance food stamp households.

Source: County of Orange Social Services Agency.